

Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 AID-05 L-02 H-01 SS-15 MED-02 PRS-01

PA-01 CU-02 OPR-01 A-01 PER-01 /080 W

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R 260855Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8434

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR MY

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH MALAYSIA IS NOT AN OPIUM PRODUCER, IT IS A TRANSSHIPMENT ROUTE FOR OPIUM FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE, AND MALAYSIAN SYNDICATES ARE INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG SMUGGLING. OUR MISSION HAS ASSISTED THE GOM IN DEVELOPING MORE EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF KLDO IN ASSISTING GOM LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, BY PROVIDING SPECIALIZED TRAINING TO GOM OFFICERS, AND THROUGH DISCUSSIONS REGARDING NARCOTICS CONTROL WITH ALL LEVELS OF THE GOM. ADDITIONALLY MISSION PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CONCERNED WITH PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM WITHIN KL AMERICAN COMMUNITY, WE BELIEVE THAT CURRENT LEVEL OF MISSION ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD IS CORRECT, AND INCREASE WOULD RISK GIVING IMPRESSION OF US INTERFERENCE IN MALAYSIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, THERE IS ROOM FOR INCREASE IN MULTILATERAL EFFORTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY IN COOPERATION WITH AUSTRALIA AND ASEAN NATIONS. END

SUMMARY.

2. MALAYSIA GROWS NO OPIUM, AND RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS REFINED HERE (FROM OPIUM FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES) ARE NOT BELIEVED TO ENTER INTO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. GOM INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES ARE TRADITIONALLY EFFECTIVE, AND RELATIVELY CORRUPTION FREE. NEVERTHELESS, MALAYSIA IS AN IMPORTANT TRANSSHIPMENT ROUTE FOR NARCOTICS FROM GOLDEN TRIANGLE TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. MALAYSIAN-BASED SYNDICATES ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG SMUGGLING, AND NARCOTICS CONTROL IS A NEW RESPONSIBILITY FOR MALAYSIAN POLICE; THEREFORE, OUR MISSION HAS BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ASSISTING GOM IN DEVELOPING MORE EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS.

3. OFFICE IN MISSION DEVOTED SOLELY TO NARCOTICS CONTROL IS DEA OFFICE (KLDO) WITH 2 AGENTS AND 1 SECRETARY. KLDO HAS DEVELOPED INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING ILLEGAL DRUG ACTIVITIES BOTH WITHIN MALAYSIA AND IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, AND HAS SHARED THAT INTELLIGENCE WITH THREE AGENCIES OF GOM WORKING IN THIS FIELD: THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (CID) OF ROYAL MALAYSIAN POLICE, CENTRAL NARCOTICS BUREAU (CNB), AND ROYAL CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPT. (RECD). EACH OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ACTED ON KLDO SUPPLIED INTELLIGENCE, BUT THE GREATEST DEGREE OF SUCCESS HAS BEEN WITH CUSTOMS AND CID. KLDO HAS ALSO ACTED AS LIAISON CHANNEL BETWEEN MALAYSIAN POLICE AND THIRD COUNTRY POLICE FORCES. FINALLY, KLDO AGENTS WITH KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF GOM AUTHORITIES HAVE ACTED UNDER COVER TO HELP BUILD CASE AGAINST ILLICIT DRUG DEALERS.

4. USG HAS PROVIDED SPECIAL NARCOTICS TRAINING BOTH IN-COUNTRY AND IN US TO STEADY STREAM OF GOM OFFICERS FROM CID, CNB, AND CUSTOMS. EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED NECESSARY IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT FOR THESE PROGRAMS WHICH SERVE THREEFOLD PURPOSE OF UPGRADING THE SKILLS OF MALAYSIAN OFFICERS, CREATING A CADRE OF OFFICERS WHO "IN-TUNE" WITH KLDO OPERATING PROCEDURES, AND GAINING GREATER UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR CONCERN OVER INTERNATIONAL DRUG SMUGGLING.

5. EMBASSY ALSO HAS HAD CONTACT WITH ALL LEVELS OF GOM WITH REGARDS TO NARCOTICS CONTROL. GOM'S INCREASED PERCEPTION OF IMPORTANCE OF NARCOTICS CONTROL WHICH, AT LEAST IN PART, A CONFIDENTIAL

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RESULT OF EMBASSY EFFORTS RESULTED IN CREATION OF CNB IN 1973 WITH MISSION OF COORDINATING ALL GOM NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS, AND IN STRENGTHENING OF GOM'S NARCOTICS LAWS. WE SEE PROBLEMS WITH MALAYSIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT DUE TO LACK OF CONSPIRACY LAWS AND STRICTURES AGAINST "AGENT PROVOCATEUR", BUT GOM LEADERSHIP IS GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AND WILL, WE BELIEVE, ADDRESS THESE DEFICIENCIES.

6. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH KUALA LUMPUR AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS SO FAR BEEN FORTUNATE TO AVOID SERIOUS DRUG ABUSE PROBLEMS WHICH HAS PLAGUED OTHER AMERICAN COMMUNITIES OVERSEAS, MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY "FAMILY" BOTH OFFICIALLY AND IN THEIR PRIVATE CAPACITIES HAVE WORKED HARD TO COMBAT THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM. AN EMBASSY WIFE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTER PROGRAM FUNDED IN PART THROUGH A GRANT BY WH SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION; THE EMBASSY OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM GOM SO THAT AMERICAN TEENAGERS COULD PARTICIPATE IN A SUMMER JOB PROGRAM; AND THE EMBASSY PROVIDES CONFIDENTIAL STORAGE FACILITIES FOR RECORDS ON COUNSELING OF AMERICAN YOUTHS CONCERNING DRUG ABUSE (US MISSION PEOPLE ALSO SERVE AS COUNSELORS IN THIS PROGRAM).

7. IT IS OUR BELIEF THAT CURRENT LEVEL OF US MISSION ACTIVITIES IS CORRECT AND LARGE INCREASE IN SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD RUN RISK OF OFFENDING MALAYSIAN SENSIBILITIES, AND THUS REDUCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OUR PROGRAMS. (US BASED DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE IN THE PAST HURT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN KLDO AND GOM AGENCIES BY IGNORING SUCH SENSIBILITIES.) US INTRUSION INTO SUCH AREAS AS LEGAL REFORM AND LAW ENFORCEMENT WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN MALAYSIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, OTHER NATIONS IN ADDITION TO US ARE LEGITIMATELY CONCERNED WITH INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL. EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT HERE COULD BE INCREASED BY EMPHASIZING MULTILATERAL IN PREFERENCE TO BILATERAL PROGRAMS; E.G., AUSTRALIA WITH ITS COMMON BACKGROUND IN ENGLISH COMMON LAW SHOULD BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE IN DISCUSSING LEGAL REFORMS WITH GOM THAN US, AND CANBERRA WHICH MAINTAINS ITS OWN NARCOTICS LIAISON OFFICER HERE, SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TRAINING ASSISTANCE AS WELL. IN ADDITION, INCREASED LIAISON ON NARCOTICS MATTERS WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN), PARTICULARLY SINGAPORE, INDONESIA AND THAILAND, SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. EMPHASIZING MULTILATERAL

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EFFORTS WOULD ALSO HELP AVOID IMPRESSION THAT DRUG ABUSE IS PRIMARILY AN AMERICAN PROBLEM, AND SOLELY AN AMERICAN CONCERN SINCE MALAYSIA'S NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY WORKS AGAINST ANY EXCESSIVELY CLOSE COOPERATION WITH A SINGLE SUPERPOWER IN ANY FIELD.

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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